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The Humble
ADDRESS
Of the Right Honourable, the
Lords Spiritual & Temporal.
THE MELCHIOR PRESS.
COMMONS
In Parliament Assembled,
Presented to
HIS MAJESTY
On the Seventeenth of *December*, 1695



Printed at LONDON, and Re-printed at
EDINBURGH, 1696.

Die Mercurij 18. Dec' 1695.

IT is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual
and Temporal in Parliament Assem-
bled, That the Lord Keeper of the
Great Seal of England, do give Order,
That the Address made Yesterday, to His
Majesty by both Houses of Parliament, be
forthwith Printed and Published.

Matth. Johnson,
Cleric. Parliamentor.

The Humble
ADDRESS
 OF THE

Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual
 and Temporal, and Commons in
 Parliament Assembled.

Die Veneris 13 Decembris, 1695.



E the Lords Spiritual and
 Temporal, and Commons
 in Parliament Assembled,
 having taken into our Con-
 sideration the State of the
 Trade of this Kingdom, Do
 find, That besides many
 other Disadvantages and
 Difficulties it now lies un-
 der, An Act of Parliament,
 that hath lately Received
 Your Majesties Royal Af-
 sent in Your Kingdom of
Scotland, for Erecting a

Company Trading to Africa and the Indies, is likely to bring
 many great Prejudices and Mischiefs to all Your Majesties Sub-
 jects, that are concerned in the Wealth or Trade of this Nation;
 and therefore in all Duty to Your Majesty, and the Care we
 ought to have of this Kingdom, We do humbly Represent to
 Your Majesty, that the said Act does provide, "That all Ships,
 "Vessels, Merchandise, Goods, and other Effects whatsoever
 "belonging to that Company, shall be free from all manner of
 "Restraints, or Prohibitions, and of all Customs, Taxes, Ses-
 "ses, Supplies, or other Duties Imposed or to be Imposed by
 "Act of Parliament, or otherwise, for the Space of One and
 "Twenty Years: And further, that the said Company, whole
 "Members, Officers, Servants or others belonging thereto, shall
 "be free both in their Persons, Estates and Goods Employed in
 "the said Stock and Trade, from all manner of Taxes, Sesses,
 "Supplies, Excises, Quartering of Soldiers Transient or Local,
 "or Levying of Soldiers, or other Impositions, dureing the space
 "of One and Twenty Years.

(4)

By reason of which great Advantages Granted to the Scots *East India Company*, and the Duties and Difficulties that lie upon that Trade in *England*, a great part of the Stock and Shipping of this Nation will be carried thither; and by this Means Scotland be made a Free Port for all *East India Commodities*; and consequently those several places in Europe, which were Supplied from *England*, will be Furnished from thence, much Cheaper than can be done by the *English*: And therefore this Nation will lose the Benefit of Supplying Foreign parts with those Commodities, which hath always been a great Article in the Ballance of our Foreign Trade: Moreover, the said Commodities will unavoidably be brought by the Scots into *England*, by Stealth, both by Sea and Land, to the vast prejudice of the *English* Trade and Navigation, and to the great Detriment of Your Majesty in Your Customs. And when once that Nation shall have settled themselves in Plantations in *America*, our Commerce in Tobacco, Sugar, Cotton-Wool, Skins, Masts, &c. will be utterly lost, because the Priviledges of that Nation, Granted to them by this Act, are such, That that Kingdom must be the Magazine for all those Commodities, and the *English* Plantations and the Traffick thereof lost to us, and Exportation of our own Manufactures yearly Decreased.

Besides these, and many other Obstructions that this Act will unavoidably bring to the general Trade of this Nation "Another Clause in the said Act, whereby Your Majesty Promises to Interpose Your Authority, to have Restitution, Reparation, and Satisfaction made for any Damage that may be done to any of the Ships, Goods, Merchandise, Persons or other Effects whatsoever belonging to the said Company, and that upon the Publick Charge; Does seem to Engage Your Majesty to Employ the Shipping and Strength at Sea of this Nation, to Support this New Company, to the great Detriment even of this Kingdom.

All which great Prejudices, Inconveniences and Mischiefs arising by the said Act, we in all Duty and Faithfulness lay before Your Majesty.

Matth: Johnson.
Cleric' Parliamentor.